

Sedum Rhodiola.
Saxifraga (2 species).
Gnaphalium sylvaticum.
Hieracium vulgatum.
Vaccinium uliginosum.
Pyrola chlorantha.
Diapensia lapponica.

Pedicularis (2 species).
Empetrum nigrum.
Salix (1 species).
Eriophorum (2 species).
Agrostis canina.
Festuca ovina.

There is only one undoubtedly new species in the collection, viz.—

“*Pedicularis Kanei* (Durand). Caulibus compluribus; foliis linearibus glabris; pinnulis minutis, omnibus remotis, rachi petioloque vix dilatatis; corolla rosea, galea edentata.

“Planta quam præcedens [*P. arctica*] robustior, radice carnosa palmatim ramosa. Caules complures, vix lanati; folia linearia, glabra, pinnatifida; pinnulæ minutæ, omnes remotæ, margine rursus fere integra, deorsum acute serrata; petiolus foliorumque rachis vix dilatati; prior ad basin parce lanatus. Spica densa; bracteæ lanuginosæ angusto-lanceolatae, fere integræ, ad apicem tantummodo obscure pauci-dentatæ. Calyx 5–6-fidus, lana alba densissima implexus; corolla rosea, textura tenerrima, calyce duplo longior; labium inferius tripartitum, suberoso-dentatum; lobus medianus subrotundus (in præcedenti emarginatus), galea minus incurva, angustior, edentata. Staminorum filamenta pilosa; stigma subrotundum, papillosum, integrum; germen subglobosum.

“*P. Kanei* is easily distinguished from *P. arctica* by the delicacy of its pinnules, which are all remote, on a rachis scarcely dilated; by its bracts, perhaps more lanuginous, but almost entire; by its rose-coloured flowers, its edentate helmet, and the thin texture of its corolla and calyx. The middle lobe of the inferior lip and stigma are not emarginate, as in *P. arctica*, and the germ is of a more globose form. It is, moreover, a larger plant, with many more stems, and a more fleshy root.”—Kane’s Arctic Explor. ii. 458.

Gathered on the coast of Smith’s Sound.

Only one fern is mentioned as found to the north of 73°, viz. *Cystopteris fragilis*, at Wolstenholm, 76°.

One new moss also is recorded, viz.

“*Bryum lucidum* (James). This species in all its characters resembles *B. crudum*, except the capsule, which is oval, without a collum, and not pyriform, and of a dark brown colour.”—*l. c.* 465.

We must refer to the Essay itself for many other valuable and interesting remarks.

Remarks on young Bony Pikes (Lepidosteus).

By Professor AGASSIZ.

Mr. J. E. Gavit exhibited to the American Association at Albany a vase containing young Gar-Pikes 4 to 6 inches long, from Lake Ontario, which called forth some remarks from Prof. Agassiz. The point of special interest in these representatives of the ancient Ganoids was the occurrence of an upper lobe to the caudal fin containing the prolonged vertebral column. It was placed directly above that fin, was of equal length, and had a lanceolate form; it moreover had a

peculiar rapid vibratile motion. The vertebral column was continued in it quite to its extremity. These young fishes therefore were essentially identical in their tails with the Palæozoic species, and in one genus of the Old Red Sandstone, named *Glypticus*, as stated by Prof. Agassiz, the tail was similar in the form of the lobes. This supernumerary lobe disappears as the fish grows older. Prof. Agassiz observed, that this was among the many facts which show that the order of succession of animals in past time is exemplified now in the development of individuals. He also remarked on the fact that these Ganoid fishes resemble reptiles in the power of moving the head on the back-bone (owing to the ball-and-socket joint of the vertebræ), and in the quasi tail.—*Silliman's Journal*, Nov. 1856.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR DEC. 1856.

[The insertion of carefully prepared Meteorological Reports in the principal daily Papers has rendered our Table and Observations, which from the nature of our publication cannot appear within less than a month after date, of so little value, that the Editors have determined to discontinue them. In doing so they beg to return their thanks to those gentlemen who for so many years have kindly contributed the information.]

Chiswick.—December 1. Severe frost: fine, but cold. 2. Clear and frosty. 3. Rain. 4. Frosty and foggy: rain. 5. Foggy and drizzly: rain at night. 6. Densely clouded: rain. 7. Boisterous: cloudy: fine. 8. Densely overcast: cloudy: rain. 9. Fine: cloudy: rain at night. 10. Rain: densely clouded. 11. Partially overcast: fine: rain at night. 12. Clear: very fine in forenoon: cloudy at night: heavy rain. 13. Rain: cloudy and fine. 14. Slight rain: cloudy and fine. 15. Clear and fine: frosty at night. 16. Sharp frost: clear: foggy. 17. Frosty and foggy: cloudy at night. 18. Hazy: drizzly: slight rain. 19. Clear and fine throughout: slight frost at night. 20. Frosty: hazy: cloudy. 21. Overcast. 22. Cloudy. 23. Partially overcast: clear: cloudy. 24. Rain: clear and very fine: frosty at night. 25. Foggy: sharp frost. 26. Cloudy: frosty. 27. Clear and frosty: severe frost at night. 28. Frosty: clear: sharp frost. 29. Clear and frosty: overcast. 30. Hazy. 31. Cloudy.

Mean temperature of the month	39°·03
Mean temperature of Dec. 1855	33·99
Mean temperature of Dec. for the last thirty years	39·48
Average amount of rain in Dec.	1·479 inch.

Boston.—Dec. 1. Fine. 2. Fine: snow P.M. 3, 4. Fine. 5. Cloudy: rain A.M. 6. Fine; rain P.M. 7. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 8, 9. Cloudy. 10. Cloudy: rain A.M. 11. Cloudy: rain P.M. 12, 13. Fine: rain P.M. 14–16. Fine. 17. Cloudy. 18. Cloudy: rain A.M. 19. Fine. 20. Cloudy. 21. Cloudy: rain P.M. 22–26. Fine. 27. Fine: snow P.M. 28. Fine. 29. Fine: rain P.M. 30. Cloudy. 31. Fine.

Sandwick Manse, Orkney.—Dec. 1. Bright A.M.: clear P.M. 2. Snow-showers A.M.: clear P.M. 3. Cloudy A.M.: showers, thaw P.M. 4. Snow-showers A.M.: rain P.M. 5. Drops A.M.: rain P.M. 6. Showers A.M. and P.M. 7. Cloudy A.M.: showers P.M. 8. Cloudy A.M.: clear, fine P.M. 9. Cloudy A.M.: rain P.M. 10. Damp A.M.: showers P.M. 11. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 12. Cloudy A.M.: fine, showers P.M. 13. Cloudy A.M.: fine, clear P.M. 14. Showers A.M.: cloudy P.M. 15. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 16. Cloudy A.M.: showers P.M. 17. Cloudy A.M.: damp P.M. 18. Showers A.M.: clear P.M. 19. Drizzle A.M.: cloudy P.M. 20. Drizzle A.M. and P.M. 21. Drizzle A.M.: rain P.M. 22. Hail-showers A.M. and P.M. 23. Snow A.M. and P.M. 24. Thaw A.M.: cloudy, sleet P.M. 25. Frost, bright A.M.: snow-showers P.M. 26. Frost, bright A.M.: snow-showers P.M. 27, 28. Hail-showers A.M. and P.M. 29. Bright A.M.: drops P.M. 30. Showers A.M.: drizzle P.M. 31. Drizzle A.M.: rain P.M.

Mean temperature of Dec. for previous twenty-nine years ...	40°·97
Mean temperature of this month	39·38
Mean temperature of Dec. 1855	39·41
Average quantity of rain in Dec. for sixteen previous years ...	4·23 inches.